

I. THE CLAIMS DEFINE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,013,538 to Burrows et al. (hereinafter "Burrows"); and claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Burrows. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Burrows does not teach, disclose or suggest "a bank which abuts on the edges of the hole injection/transportation layer and the light emitting layer to define film formation regions of the hole injection/transportation layer and the light emitting layer, the film formation region of the light emitting layer covering the film formation region of the hole injection/transportation layer," as recited in claim 1; and as similarly recited in claim 12.

Instead, Burrows does not abut on any edges of layers. By abutting on the edges, the bank of the claimed invention can define the film formation regions clearer than the patterning system, thus avoiding leaks from the edges.

In claim 10, the layers are spread within the film formation regions defined by the bank which makes sharp borders of the layers. On the contrary, the layers in Burrows do not spread to the patterning system, which does not clearly define borders of layers.

For at least these reasons, Burrows does not anticipate the subject matter of claims 1 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e); and Burrows does not render obvious the subject matter of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Burrows; and claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Burrows is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6, and 9-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Appendix

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claim 7 and 8 are canceled.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

1. (Three Times Amended) An organic EL device ~~having a laminated film of at least two layers, the laminated film comprising:~~

a laminated film comprising:

~~a hole injection/transportation layer that defines a first film formation region;~~ and

~~a light emitting layer that defines a second film formation region which covers the first film formation region; and~~

a bank which abuts on the edges of the hole injection/transportation layer and the light emitting layer to define film formation regions of the hole injection/transportation layer and the light emitting layer, the film formation region of the light emitting layer covering the film formation region of the hole injection/transportation layer.

9. (Twice Amended) The organic EL device according to claim 7-1 wherein the bank ~~shape~~ has a rounded shape corner and defines the ~~first and second~~ film formation regions with rounded corners.